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THE FARM RELIEF ACT AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY BILL

The National Industrial Recovery bill, which was referred to in the Association's circular letter of May 18, came up for consideration in the House on May 26th under a rule adopted the previous day limiting general debate to six hours and permitting only such amendments as may be offered by the Committee on Ways and Means.

This bill (H. R. 5755) replaced the bill (H. R. 5664) introduced by Chairman Doughton on May 17. It contains several amendments to the original bill, as well as the addition of tax provisions to pay interest on the proposed bond issue and provide for a sinking fund.

The Senate Finance Committee is now holding hearings on the proposed legislation so that this Committee will be in position to act quickly on the House bill when it reaches the Senate.

In the bill reported by the House Ways and Means Committee there are a few changes in sections 2 to 8, as contained in the Senate bill 1712, a copy of which accompanied the Association's letter of May 18. One change in section 7 covering conditions that shall be embodied in codes of fair competition provides that employees, in addition to having the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing "shall be free from interference, restraint or coercion of employers of labor or their agents in the designation of such representatives or in self-organizations or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

The question in which canners are most interested, perhaps, is that relating to the jurisdiction of the Farm Relief Act and the National Industrial Recovery bill. Section 8 of the latter provides that it shall not modify or repeal any of the provisions of the Farm Relief Act, and it was brought out in hearings on the bill that some further clarification might be necessary to define more exactly the field to be covered by the two measures.

The milk and meat canning branches of the industry seem definitely to come under the provisions of the Farm Relief Act.

Apparently the Farm Relief Act will not be applicable to the sea food branch of the industry. As regards other branches, including fruits and vegetables, some question of jurisdiction might arise unless section 8 of the National Industrial Recovery bill is clarified by amendment.

Quick action by the House will be possible under the rule for consideration of the bill, but action by the Senate may not be so rapid under the rules of that body.

The Department of Agriculture is now devoting its energies chiefly to determination of policy, as well as organization and procedure, relative to the basic commodities. Thus far it has not given specific consideration to the policy to be followed with respect to products of the canning industry, and it has set up no organization to deal with such commodities. However, the Department looks with approval on the proposal that commodity groups in the canning industries which wish to do so, formulate, by conference or otherwise, the features to be embodied in agreements that may be submitted to the Department for approval and enforcement. When one or more of these commodity groups have formulated their plans or agreements, the Department will place itself in readiness to act upon them upon application of the affected industry.

The Association will continue its policy of keeping the industry informed as to definite developments as regards both the Farm Act and the National Industrial Recovery bill.

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

Imports of canned tomatoes in April were more than 3,800,000 pounds below those of April last year, and tomato paste imports decreased over 300,000 pounds. Receipts of canned tomatoes from Italy fell off 3,820,391 pounds when compared with April, 1932, and there were no imports from Canada, as against 35,200 pounds imported from Canada in April, 1932. The total imports in April were as follows:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1932				
January	10,461,256	\$307,270	977,091	\$60,177
February	11,743,475	341,551	652,718	41,161
March	10,002,412	329,724	716,882	44,600
April	11,435,615	388,655	961,844	70,524
Total	44,632,758	1,367,200	3,309,135	216,462
1933				
January	5,418,548	182,127	1,066,923	60,199
February	4,508,534	157,558	506,878	30,913
March	7,429,808	247,863	731,449	54,621
April	7,580,024	271,012	645,034	39,265
Total	24,936,914	858,560	2,950,284	193,998

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN APRIL

Exports of canned foods in April showed increases in canned meats and the majority of canned vegetables and some canned fruits. Increases were reported in canned beef, pork, sausage, asparagus, baked beans and pork and beans, corn, peas, evaporated milk, cherries, grapefruit, pears. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	April, 1932		April, 1933	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	953,017	\$198,607	1,178,972	\$221,511
Beef	78,520	20,334	144,070	31,267
Pork	664,359	145,730	888,530	163,325
Sausage	61,991	13,745	95,516	19,082
Other	148,141	18,801	50,805	7,837
Canned vegetables, total	1,468,182	149,021	2,245,533	168,970
Asparagus	555,420	79,813	917,580	95,022
Baked beans, and pork and beans	129,257	6,926	488,122	19,732
Corn	85,657	6,070	109,803	6,635
Peas	108,415	8,614	144,697	10,778
Soups	175,877	21,484	94,756	10,271
Tomatoes	263,723	13,871	283,496	13,769
Other	149,833	12,243	207,079	14,763
Condensed milk	1,168,600	165,974	561,546	68,546
Evaporated milk	3,207,246	210,044	3,290,326	185,296
Canned fruits, total	11,853,488	826,522	9,561,364	606,130
Apples and applesauce	686,265	29,128	276,104	12,563
Apricots	1,386,953	91,487	488,849	28,418
Loganberries	470,115	34,314	153,234	8,597
Other berries	137,548	6,585	16,640	1,828
Cherries	24,984	3,446	29,828	3,254
Fruits for salad	1,548,306	167,580	870,499	81,630
Grapefruit	1,150,622	60,708	1,285,919	64,097
Peaches	3,120,281	194,692	2,387,352	132,899
Pears	2,172,688	153,680	2,868,635	185,937
Pineapple	1,024,667	74,018	1,005,955	76,117
Prunes	72,030	5,287	63,100	5,285
Other	59,029	5,507	115,249	8,505
Salmon	1,005,296	84,547	704,555	72,454
Sardines	2,149,406	121,732	1,616,531	86,741

NOTES FROM COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Australian canned fruit pack in 1933 is expected to reach record figures, and it is estimated that about 2,000,000 dozen cans will be placed on the London market.

Japanese canned crab meat exports in 1932 totaled 311,057 cases, of which 122,517 cases were shipped to the United States.

The Nichiro Fishery Company (Japanese) has chartered 190,400 tons of shipping for April 1 to August 31, to be used in salmon fishing. This is about 55,000 tons less than chartered a year ago.

Argentine canned meat exports during the first quarter of 1933 amounted to 16,862 short tons valued at \$925,201, against 9,882 tons valued at \$633,387 in the corresponding period of 1932. Shipments to the United States increased from 1,441 tons

in the first quarter of 1932 to 2,744 tons in the corresponding quarter of 1933.

Canned pimiento production from the 1932 crop in Spain is now estimated at 35 per cent below the amount canned in 1931. Foreign demand thus far has been even more unsatisfactory than it was last season. Shipments to the United States from September, 1932, to April, 1933, inclusive, totaled 1,862,142 pounds as compared with 2,820,145 pounds in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

CANNING INDUSTRY'S OUTPUT IN 1931

In Bulletin No. 112-A, issued in March, the Association published figures collected by the Census Bureau in the census of 1931, along with figures on the output of canned fishery products in 1931 collected by the Bureau of Fisheries. At that time, the Census Bureau had not completed compilation of the figures on canned meat and meat products, canned poultry and poultry products, and canned milk. These figures are now available, and the following table has been prepared showing the output of canned foods in 1931 by classes of products, with which is given the output in 1929. For canned fruits the statistics include the quantity but not the value of the Hawaiian pineapple pack. For canned fish, the Alaskan pack is included.

	1929		1931	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Vegetables and soup	132,196,545	\$325,738,329	104,731,741	\$210,997,427
Fruits	42,261,346	137,399,341	41,273,004	79,297,064
Fish and fish products	17,310,238	101,065,065	12,580,826	62,948,791
Meat and meat products	a187,547,109	44,516,832	a127,909,192	25,004,030
Poultry and poultry products		4,448,475		4,095,505
Canned milk	a2,316,891,608	173,469,962	a2,051,214,085	115,885,732
Total		780,637,904		408,828,540
a Pounds.				

CALIFORNIA SPINACH PACK

The spinach pack in California in 1933 as compared with earlier years is reported by the Cannery League of California as follows:

	1930	1931	1932	1933
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
No. 2½	590,790	662,166	483,758	931,350
No. 10	289,761	194,468	63,692	176,621
No. 2 tall	394,986	301,061	185,928	328,964
No. 1 tall	175,064	81,078	53,434	104,945
8-ounce (3¼)	25,229	34,960	8,161	5,417
8-ounce (3)	28,297	22,735	4,785	7,511
Misc.	55,369	43,223	16,862	33,022
Total	1,565,496	1,339,700	816,620	1,587,830

The total for 1933 includes 122,585 cases of delayed fall pack made in January and early February, thus the pack since March 1 was 1,465,254 cases.

CANNED SHRIMP PACK AND STOCKS

The pack of shrimp from May 11 to 17 totaled 4,263 cases, making the total pack from August 1, 1932 to May 17 amount to 594,398 cases.

Stocks of shrimp on hand or on consignment on May 17, as reported by all but two firms, amounted to 40,458½ cases, as against 55,865½ cases on May 3.

MOVEMENT OF TRUCK CROPS

Total shipments of 31 truck vegetables and fruits during the week ended May 20 were 15,925 cars and were just a little lighter than a year ago. Movement of Florida grapefruit increased to 540 carloads, compared with 135 a year ago. Light shipments of grapefruit came from California and Arizona. Florida originated 165 of the total 205 carloads of mixed citrus fruit. About 300 cars of green peas came from California, 170 from North Carolina and 25 from Virginia.

Output of Florida watermelons increased to about 500 cars and Texas began with a dozen carloads. Total of 510 was nearly four times the corresponding movement of last season. Movement of cantaloupes from Imperial Valley reached 200 cars, compared with 890 a year ago.

Rail shipments of strawberries held at 1,520 cars last week, besides 65 carloads reported by truck from North Carolina.

Texas tomatoes increased greatly to 785 cars for the week, but Florida was down to 55 and only 7 came from Ohio, besides imports of 21 carloads from Mexico. The total output was fully double that of last spring at this time.

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

	1933 Pounds	1932 Pounds	Change Per Cent
Manufacturers' stocks (case goods) May 1:			
Evaporated (34 firms).....	36,975,047	11,708,812	—68.59
Condensed (8 firms).....	5,309,681	9,532,448	—44.30
Total production, April:			
Evaporated (33 firms).....	167,378,394	139,486,856	+20.00
Condensed (7 firms).....	4,544,546	6,460,143	—30.91

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES

The index number of wholesale commodity prices as computed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an increase of three-tenths of 1 per cent from March to April, 1933,

the second successive advance in recent months and the first advance in the monthly index between March and April since 1928. When compared with April, 1932, a decrease of over 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent has been recorded in the 12 months. Among foods the prices as a whole increased 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent in April as compared with March.

Retail food prices in 51 cities showed an average decrease of about one-tenth of 1 per cent on April 15 as compared with March 15, and an average decrease of about 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent since April 15, 1932.

From March 15 to April 15 the average retail price of evaporated milk decreased 2 per cent; canned red salmon and canned corn 1 per cent. Canned peas showed an increase of 2 per cent, while no price change was recorded for pork and beans and canned tomatoes.

NEW DEFINITION FOR APPLE BUTTER

The Secretary of Agriculture has signed new and revised definitions for a number of food products, including apple butter. These definitions are for the guidance of the trade as well as an aid to officials in enforcing Federal and State food laws. The new definition for apple butter follows:

Apple butter is the semi-solid product obtained by cooking to a suitable consistency the strained edible portion of apples with sugar and/or dextrose, with or without one or more of the following: apple juice, boiled cider, spice, salt. In its preparation not less than 5 parts by weight of the strained apples are used to each 2 parts by weight of sugar and/or dextrose. The product has a characteristic apple flavor and is commonly spiced.

DUSTING OF SWEET CORN SEED RECOMMENDED

Dusting sweet corn seed with organic mercury dusts avoids much loss from seedling blight, and the cost of this treatment is only 3 or 4 cents an acre, according to Circular 39 of the Agricultural Extension Division of the University of Minnesota. The circular summarizes the results of fifty separate experiments in five Minnesota localities over a three-year period.

BEVERAGE LICENSING LAW IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

In Information Letter 442, page 2837, attention was called to the beverage licensing law of the State of New Hampshire and the statement was made that the law did not apply to tomato juice or tomato juice cocktail in tin. The Association is now advised that this law has recently been amended to include all non-alcoholic beverages irrespective of the containers in which they are sold. Tomato juice and tomato juice cocktail are, there-

fore, now included. The registration fee is \$10, which covers all products of an individual factory or bottling plant. Registration expires on December 31st and must be renewed annually. Blank forms of application may be obtained of the State Board of Health at Concord, N. H.

RECOMMENDS STEAM-PRESSURE METHOD FOR HOME CANNING

Strong recommendation that the steam-pressure method be used in the home canning of meats and non-acid vegetables is made in a press statement issued by the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Commercial canning industry has long recognized the danger and loss involved in the use of the water bath method with these products, and it is gratifying that the Department of Agriculture has issued its statement in advance of the canning season, particularly because cases of illness resulting from the use of home canned foods that have not been properly processed tend to throw suspicion upon commercial as well as home canned products. The statement as issued by the Department follows:

Fresh evidence in favor of the steam-pressure canner for foods low in acidity is presented by the Bureau of Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture after examining more than 4,000 containers of foods canned in its experimental laboratories. These jars and cans included many of the low-acid foods that are commonly canned at home—meats, fish, and vegetables other than tomatoes. They represent 10 years of experimental work in home canning.

Since meats, fish, and corn, beans, peas, and other vegetables, except tomatoes, give most trouble in home canning, the department ran many series of comparative tests with these foods. Repeatedly it tried out the water-bath method with both continuous and intermittent periods of processing, and again and again the high percentage of spoilage showed this method wasteful and dangerous for nonacid foods.

The water-bath method produces a temperature about equal to that of boiling water (around 212° F.), but no higher. This is not high enough to kill in a reasonable time the bacteria that cause spoilage in these nonacid foods.

The steam-pressure method, however, quickly runs the temperature in the containers up to 240° or 250° F. These high temperatures destroy the harmful bacteria in a short time. Containers processed in the steam-pressure canner according to directions recommended by the bureau for meats and nonacid vegetables showed only 2 per cent spoilage.

As a matter of economy, therefore, as well as a precaution against food spoilage, the bureau recommends using the steam-pressure method when canning meats and nonacid vegetables at home.

STANDARDS YEARBOOK ISSUED

The Standards Yearbook for 1933, compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Standards, is now available. In it are outlined the activities and accomplishments of not only the bureaus and

agencies of the Federal government, but also those of states and counties. It contains a resumé of the standardization work of scientific and technical societies and trade associations. A brief account of international cooperation in standardization is followed by a summary of the activities of the national standards associations of the various countries. The publication of 250 pages is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, at \$1 per copy.

NEW BULLETIN ON TOMATO GROWING

Pointers on tomato growing are contained in a new publication recently issued by the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva under the title: "Effects of Fertilizers and Rotation on Earliness and Total Yields of Tomatoes." The bulletin is a report on experiments covering a period of six years in which tomatoes have been grown continuously on the same land and in rotation, both the rotated and the continuous tomatoes receiving the same fertilizer treatments.

FERTILIZERS FOR SWEET POTATOES

Technical Bulletin No. 335 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture presents the results of cooperative fertilizer experimental work with sweet potatoes conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the soil fertility division of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. It is an illustrated bulletin of 45 pages, with bibliography, and may be obtained upon request from the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

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